

serious trouble, but in this respect they are no different from other non-venomous bites. The fact is, I fancy, that ill effects caused by bites and stings are too greatly feared. I have had a fairly wide experience, both as a victim and as a "first aider," of various stings and bites, including those of species of centipedes, scorpions and spiders, and have been reassured by the consequences.

—E. H. SEDGWICK, Caron.

The White-winged Black Tern near Broome.—The White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) is a species which nests on the lakes and swamps of southern Europe, Algeria and central Asia, and wanders both north and south in the non-breeding season, sometimes reaching Australia. However, apart from a few records from the Northern Territory and Cape York, the only known certain instances of its appearance in the south occurred in 1917 and 1918. In the former year there was a remarkable invasion of thousands of these terns into the South-West. They were first reported from Doodlakine in the middle of March and the birds reached the west coast on Easter Sunday, April 8 along a broad front which extended in the north at least to Wedge Island and south to Busselton. A full and interesting account of the visitation was published in *The Emu*, vol. 17, 1917, p. 95, by Mr. W. B. Alexander. He stated that almost every swamp and estuary between Moora and Balingup seemed to have parties of the birds feeding over them. They were also seen at Garden Island. Lesser numbers of the terns were reported near Perth the following year (*The Emu*, vol. 18, 1918, p. 134).

There have been no reports of the species in Western Australia—or for that matter with any certainty elsewhere in the Commonwealth—ever since. So it is interesting to report that a specimen was collected by Mr. E. A. Akerstrom 20 miles S.W. of Broome on October 21, 1945. This was during a fisheries investigation in the area by Mr. G. P. Whitley in the lugger "Isobel." Mr. Whitley preserved the specimen in alcohol and kindly handed it over to me for examination. The bird was one of a large flock working over several shoals of tuna (*Kishinoella tonggol*).

The specimen was an immature female. The head was black, with the feathers narrowly tipped white, the forehead was broadly white, and there was a small black spot at the inner side of the orbit. Behind the head was a narrow white nuchal ring. The rest of the upper-parts were grey, with a brown tinge on some of the humeral feathers. The tail was light grey, whitish at the base and with the outer vane of the outermost quill white. All the underparts, including the under-wing coverts, were pure white with the underneath of the flight quills light grey. Measurements: Wing, 203 mm.; culmen, 22.0; tarsus, 21; middle toe and claw, 24. The specimen matches very well a young female collected near Monger's Lake during the 1917 visitation and preserved at the W.A. Museum.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.